

The Future of EPA's Small Business Programs

Jeanette's Talking Points for Closing of Tampa Training/Conference

Thursday, November 1
11:15-11:45 a.m.

- I want to thank you again for taking your time to be here with us this week. I think we accomplished a lot, and I hope you have found this training conference both useful and educational.
- Our OSDBU office has undergone a lot change in the past two years, but I think they have all been good changes.
- Now that the Small Business Ombudsman, Small Business Environmental Assistance Program, and Minority Academic Institutions Program have been melded together with our Direct Procurement and Indirect Procurement Programs, I think we are finding synergies that did not exist before – or synergies that were not as *strong* as they are today. I envision our office:
 - implementing the DBE rule and gearing up to be in a position to process certification requests within 30 business days,
 - continuing to cross-train our personnel in the four different program areas that we handle in OSDBU,
 - hiring some new employees with new skills and new ideas to help us move the SBO/SBEAP program forward,
 - developing closer relationships with Historically Black schools ... tribal schools ... Hispanic-Serving Schools, and
 - putting OSDBU -- and EPA as a whole -- in a better position to meet the needs of America's small businesses and Minority Academic Institutions.
- I envision a day – sometime in the future – when small businesses will provide the bulk of the goods and services that EPA procures. We are going to continue working with EPA's program offices, the Office of

Acquisition Management, grantees, and small business owners to ensure that small businesses are given the maximum possible opportunities to meet EPA's procurement needs.

- I envision a day when small businesses will have all the information and tools they need to comply with EPA's numerous regulations, and not have to fear the heavy hand of "enforcement". We still have a lot of small businesses, including thousands of "mom & pop stores" that don't realize that their businesses fall under EPA's environmental regulations, or they don't know how to come into compliance without "breaking the bank" and losing their businesses. We are going to continue representing the interests of these small businesses when EPA writes and modifies environmental regulations, and I envision us making greater efforts to reach out to these small businesses to educate them and help them come into compliance voluntarily.
- I envision a day when EPA, small businesses, and the nation's Minority Academic Institutions work hand-in-hand to help address the environmental and health issues facing our country and our citizens. I envision EPA creating closer relationships with minority schools so we can make better use of all the innovative ideas that these young people can offer to help us improve the world that we live.
- All of us have a role to play in making these visions realities, and in making our country a better place to live.
- We have a long way to go before we make these visions a reality, but I think we are turning the corner and moving in the right direction.
- When we leave here today, I hope ALL OF US will take away a new resolve to work together. That would benefit all of us.
- I hope YOU will take away a better understanding of what EPA's Small Business Office does and the ways in which we can help you ... be it in the contracting arena, grants, compliance with EPA regulations, or working with the institutions of higher education that have so much to bring to the table.